

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To:

Mr. ~~H. B. ...~~

AUG 23 1974

L J Cole correspondence 1915-16

Professor Charles Rosenberg of U/Penna. gave me a lead that brings me back to you to request a favor. I am trying to understand how Professor Cole came to write a paper (with W.H.Wright) on bacterial genetics, 1916, J. Infect. Dis., 19: 209-221. "Application of the pure-line concept to bacteria".

As far as I (or my onetime colleagues in the Dept. of Genetics) am aware, he never returned to this topic in any way. The article happens to be a particularly insightful theoretical analysis. If it had been brought more widely to the attention of geneticists, or been understood by its audience of microbiologists, it have have saved a 20- or 30-year delay in the establishment of a new hybrid discipline. Do you have correspondence that might illuminate this question, or help identify the coauthor? Letters from readers responding to the paper would also be most helpful.

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*Cole was Russell's man
(over opposition from regents)
argued basic scientist*